



AUGUSTA, THURSDAY, JULY 13, 1848.

POTASH FROM THE MOUNTAINS.

We see it stated in the report of the Commissioner of Patents, that an American, now in England, had obtained patents for separating the potash that is contained in the felspar which occurs so abundantly in the primitive rocks that compose many of our mountains. There are several varieties of felspar, most of which may be called potash felspar, because it contains that alkali. The proportion of potash varies in the several varieties. The mode which is adopted for extracting the potash is this. The rock is broken up and kept at a red heat, lime and plaster of paris being added. The heat is kept up for some time, after which the materials are put into a leach tub and leached with water, as you would leach ashes. The liquor being evaporated, the sulphate of potash is obtained. If muriate of soda (common salt) be added before heating, instead of the plaster of paris, muriate of potash will be the result. Another patent has been taken out for decomposing these or other alkaline salts by steam. For instance—if you have the muriate of potash and you wish to deprive it of the muriatic acid and obtain the caustic or pure potash, heat the muriate very hot and then pass over it and through it a current of steam or vapor. The acid combines with the steam and is driven off with it, and the alkali remains free. If you wish to preserve the acid it may be conveyed off in tubes, that will not be corroded by it, into a cooler, and condensed, as you would in common distillation.

In this way you can make or obtain the sulphuric acid (oil of vitriol) from common plaster of paris. You will need a cylinder to beat the plaster in. The plaster, you know, is made of lime and sulphuric acid. After it is heated you can let in the steam by a tube at the bottom, which will pass through the heated mass, combine with the acid, and can be conveyed away by another tube into a cooler. The acid is thus saved, and the lime remains behind in a caustic state. In the same way other salts may be decomposed; and it affords a very cheap mode of doing it, when it may become an object to do it on an extended scale.

A SHORT CHAPTER FOR A SHORT MAN.

We have a curious and inquisitive friend, who measures something less than five feet five in his stockings, but whose mind is active, and who delights to put pithy questions to his friends. We have just received the following note from him, which we answer below, just for the sake of keeping him quiet during the warm season.

FREE HOLMES.—In looking over a former volume of the Farmer, I find that you made the expression that "man is a complex or compound being." I don't exactly understand what you mean by that phraseology, and would be obliged if you would give us a chapter explanatory. **AN OLD FRIEND.**

We do not know when or where we have made the expression that our old friends speak of, or in connection with what subject it was made; but if it will relieve his anxiety any for us to explain in what light we consider him a complex animal, we will give him the desired chapter.

NEW LABORER IN THE FIELD. We have received the first number of a new monthly publication, hailing from the Green Mountain State. It is published at Burlington, by Hopkins & Clarke, at \$1 a year, and bears the name of the "Vermont State Agriculturist."

It is neatly got up, and ably edited by Casper T. Hopkins. We trust the Vermonters will give it a warm reception.

GOOD NEWS FOR THE BLIND. Prof. C. P. Bronson avers that he has discovered the means, whereby the natural eyesight can be preserved through life, and that sight can be restored after wearing glasses many years, and that near-sightedness can be removed. All this without any surgical operation, and done in him. He has certainly relieved a great many.

QUICK SPEAKING. Mr. E. Goddard, of Petersham, Mass., has invented a machine for manufacturing spokes. It will turn and crackle in twenty-four minutes, and when turned it will be as easily as a boy would it. Fork handles, and such like things, may also be turned with it.

NEW HUB. Mr. Harvey Baker, of Oneonta, Otsego County, N. Y., has invented a new hub for wheels. It is so constructed that if a spoke is broken it can be put in without taking the wheel off the axle, or removing the hub.

NEW COLLEGE IN A NEW PLACE. A new College has been established at Beloit, Wisconsin, and two Northern men have been appointed Professors in it.

NEW POSTAGE BILL. From present appearances, the new postage bill which was so promptly passed by the House, will not be acted upon in the Senate this session. They are too busy in making Presidents to think of the immediate wants of the people.

A SHE ARMY. The king of Dohoney has six thousand female troops, very well disciplined, all in uniform, and armed with British and Danish muskets. We shouldn't like to meet such an army unless we were abundantly equipped with good tea.

INDIAN WARS. The tribes surrounding the Pawnees are determined to exterminate them. They are great robbers, and the other tribes have suffered so much by them that they have declared war against them, and vow to destroy the whole of them.

MORE ANTI-RENT TROUBLE. A Mr. Holbrook bought a farm in Wales, N. Y., and by aid of the sheriff ejected the occupants. In the evening twenty or thirty men, disguised as Indians, appeared and drove him off. His horse was shot and killed.

HISTORY OF CLERGYMEN. The Rev. Dr. Sprague, of Albany, contemplates preparing a history of the Christian ministry, of all denominations, since the settlement of the country. Dr. Sprague may begin such a work, but it will take more time and labor than one life-time to finish it, and tell all about them.

CONY FEMALE ACADEMY.

The public at a distance may not be so well acquainted as it might wish with the merits and attractions of this long established institution. It is rare that an Academy combines so many unquestionable advantages. Augusta is accessible from all quarters by good and convenient roads, is remarkably beautiful, and sufficiently pleasing on the score of rural beauty, the charms of scenery, and social privileges to meet the desires of the most fastidious.

The building appropriated for the uses of instruction is large, well furnished and most admirably ventilated, and by its quiet and retired location is happily suited for uninterrupted study; and in Mr. BURNHAM, who conducts the school, is to be found the mature intellect, the long experience, the generous sentiments of charity and toleration, no less than the gentlemanly deportment, which so much become, if indeed they are not essential to, the successful teacher. In his family young ladies can be boarded at low rates, and the quarterly tuition ranges from \$4 to \$7, according to the course of study, and one half of this is remitted to all scholars from other towns.

The next quarter will commence on Monday the 31st day of July, and we hope parents generally will not be unmindful of the benefits which their daughters may here derive.

PUMPKIN PIE, ON THE FOURTH OF JULY. If anything could make us feel *political*, it is the present of a fine, sound, good-flavored, old-fashioned, yankee pumpkin, of the growth of 1847. This golden vegetable was raised, preserved, and presented to us by our friend Capt. J. B. Fifebridge of Winthrop. It was kept in a room, since last autumn, where the temperature has never been below the freezing point, and where it could also be kept dry. It was a rare treat, and it made us mighty "independent!" we assure you, and as it was Independence Day, and we became full of the — pie, we couldn't help whistling a *stave* or two of the old song which the Contingenters used to sing to the *Britishers* whenever they had given them a good thrashing, and which ran in this wise:

"Yankee doole, doole dandy,
Cornstarch molasses and home-made brandy,
An Indian pudding and a *pawpaw* pie
Is the stuff to make the red-coats fly."

NOMINATIONS. At the Somerset Democratic County Convention, held in Solon, on the 29th ult., the following nominations were made: For Representative to Congress, (fifth district,) Cullen Sawtelle, of Norridgewock; for Senators, Eleazer Crocker, of St. Albans, and Paulinus M. Foster, of North Anson; for County Treasurer, Henry S. Tohey, of Fairfield; for County Commissioner, Edward Webster, of Carrington; for Elector of President and Vice President, Asa Clark, of Norridgewock.

DROWNED. On Saturday afternoon last, Charles Whitney, a lad eight years of age, son of Joseph S. Whitney, of this town, fell from a pile of lumber, near Williams' saw-mill, into the Kennebec, and was drowned. His body was soon after recovered.

GOOD DIVIDEND. Ten per cent. dividend per annum has been paid upon the stock of the Concord (N. H.) Railroad, in five percent semi-annual dividends, and extra dividends to make up for time occupied in the construction.

PITCH-FORKING. A prisoner in the New Hampshire State Prison recently made an attack upon the Warden with a pitch-fork.

THE CONQUERORS FOLLOWING THE CONQUERED. Great numbers of the American officers and soldiers have married Mexican wives, and are bringing them home. In this case the conquerors follow the conquered.

GREAT CORN COUNTRY. A writer in the New Orleans Picayune, speaking of Mexico, says that the country from Mexico to Queretaro is a great corn country, and that there are fields there of from five hundred to one thousand acres, which have been planted for ten years in succession, and still yield abundant crops.

ANOTHER GLASS FACTORY. The stock of a company for manufacturing glass has been taken up in Falmouth, Cape Cod, and it will soon go into operation.

CANAL HANDS. More than forty-one thousand persons, including men, women and boys, are employed on the canals in New York.

MADAM RESTELL CONVICTED. The infamous famous madam Restell has been convicted and sentenced to the penitentiary for nearly yearly printed, and well conducted. Success to it.

CAUTION TO BOYS. George, son of Mr. Gorham A. Luce, of Winthrop, was severely burned, last fourth of July. He had a glass flask of powder in his pocket, which was open, and some grains had scattered out. Some thoughtless boy put an ignited India cracker in the pocket, which exploded the powder and injured him severely.

Wool in Michigan. The wool growing business increases rapidly in Michigan. It is estimated, by those that have means of knowing, that they will have a surplus of a million and a half of pounds this year.

THE TRIP FROM NEW ORLEANS TO BOSTON. A gentleman not long ago published an account of his trip from New Orleans to Boston, in nine days and twenty-two hours. He went from New Orleans to Cincinnati, from Cincinnati by Mad River Railroad to Sandusky, and Sandusky to Buffalo by steamboat, and from Buffalo to Boston by railroad. Expenses of the trip, \$54.

LARGE LAW BOOK. Lord Brougham is endeavoring to have a thorough revision of the English laws and law practices. The statutes of that nation fill forty volumes, and cover thirty thousand quarto pages. Napoleon's whole code contained only seven hundred and twenty duodecimo pages.

TEMPERATURE OF LAST MAY IN BOSTON. According to tables published in the Boston Traveller, the mean temperature of last May in Boston, was 58° 82-100—nearly fifty-nine degrees. The mean temperature for the last twenty-four years, during that month, in the same place, is nearly 57° 56-76.

MOVE ALONG. The Government is moving the Winnebago tribe of Indians from Iowa to a tract of land on St. Peters and Long Prairie rivers. The tract that they have in Iowa, is forty miles wide and one hundred and fifty miles long. The white man wants it—get out, red man.

OLD NAMES. According to ancient historical data, a colony of Scythian Phoenicians settled on the coast of Ireland, at a very early date, and called it *Scotia*. That name was afterwards transferred to Scotland, and Hibernia adopted for Ireland, from the word *Herne*, which is an old Celie one. *Britannia* is an old Irish word, signifying the *island of lead mines*.

FOURTH OF JULY IN BOSTON. The Traveller says that the last celebration of the 4th in Boston was the most temperate and orderly celebration of the national birthday ever witnessed in that city.

REFORM IN EGYPT. An exchange says that a deposition waited upon the Pacha of Egypt, and requested a mitigation of certain grievances. The Pacha hung the whole of his head.

CLAM POISON. We continue to hear of numerous deaths occasioned by eating clams. Will not somebody search out the cause? Why should clams be more poisonous than the winter?

ARREST. A man who gave his name as Dudley H. Leavitt, of Newport, Me., was arrested by the Boston police, on Tuesday, for attempting to pass a counterfeit five on the Danvers Bank. Two counterfeit bills were found in his possession. [Boston Bee.]

TAKING HIS BACK TRACK. It is said by those who pretend to know, that Santa Anna is corresponding with his friends in Mexico with a view to return soon.

BABY JUMPERS.

Hear the mad wag of the Burlington (Vt.) Free Press expatiates on the beauties and conveniences of Tuttle's Patent Baby Jumper, advertised in our columns:

"Reader, let us be serious together for a moment! Have you ever seen a Baby Jumper with a baby in it? Now, Well, go to Lyndon and buy a Jumper, and then borrow a baby, and put the two together and set 'em a going! As Mr. Weller observed 'you will be glad on 't arterwards!' You will never see infant felicity in this world complete till you do it. We have witnessed the combination, and seen a little pair of soft, fat, elliptical legs, playing away under the hoop, as if they had been hired to visit some remote place within a given period, and were afraid they should be behind time! A baby will learn to laugh just a month sooner, under the excitement of a Jumper, than by a course of discipline; and for 'regulating'—(which frequently causes the unfortunate father to the necessity of swallowing a whole vial of paregoric in order to make the little responsible quiet)—a baby can't squall in a Jumper. The thing has been thoroughly tried. We have pinched them to see, (it wasn't yours, madam!) and they only laughed in response! Mr. Tuttle is the great baby benefactor of his day. Children will grow up to bless him that would have died in a swinging crib. He can 'have our hat'; and when we get to be a grandfather we mean to have a Baby Jumper ourselves."

NEW COPPER MINE. A mine of copper has been discovered in Carlisle, Mass. Its extent or value has not yet been ascertained.

A NEW ST. JOHN STEAMER. A new steamer is put on the route from St. John to Boston, called the Commodore, Capt. G. W. Brown. She made her first trip from St. John to Boston in thirty-six hours.

A MODEL SESSION. The Rhode Island Legislature adjourned on the 1st instant, having been in session four days and a half.

"YELLOW BOYS" FOR YELLOW MEN. The mullatoes of New York have made a collection of quite an amount of money, ("yellow boys") for brethren of their color who are in trouble in St. Domingo.

SHOCKING MURDER. Mr. Noah Smith and his wife, both about 70 years old, were murdered recently in Petersburg, N. Y. Fifteen hundred dollars in specie were stolen at the time.

NOMINATIONS. The Democrats of York County, at their convention in Alfred on the 4th, made the following nominations: For County Attorney, Ira T. Drew of Waterborough; for County Treasurer, Isaac Merrill of Hollis; for County Commissioner, Timothy Shaw, Jr., of Sanford; for Clerk of the Judicial Courts, James O. McIntire of Cornish; for Senators, Samuel W. Fox of Berwick, Thomas Dyer, 3d, of Saco, and Daniel Dam of Newfield.

PAYING THE CHEROKEES. Senator Bell, after a long time, has induced the Senate to make the following request to the President:

"At the earliest convenience, the Senate would like to do better a *cat* isn't a bad operator, if you are not particular about the *operator*. A *turkey* is better still; but a live, fat *turkey*—"

Those who are convinced of the utility of the above named instrument in the domestic nursery, and stand in need of one, will find them for sale at Gubert's, in this village.

As it is, we would not advise buying a *cat* for the *operator*, as it is a *cat* that would be most uncomfortable to have in the house.

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The Maine Farmer; A Family Newspaper, Devoted to Agriculture, The Arts, Literature, General Intelligence, &c. &c.

ARRIVAL OF THE CALEDONIA.



SEVEN DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.

The Steamer *Bueno Vista*, (the Express steamer) arrived at Boston on Saturday last, about one o'clock, with the news brought to Halifax by the Caledonia. The Boston Traveller, having made arrangements in connexion with the Boston Journal, and at great expense, to avail themselves of this enterprise of the *Bueno Vista*, were enabled to lay before the readers of the Traveller, Sunday evening, a full digest of European news, culled up from English papers of the day of the Caledonia's sailing. The Caledonia had not arrived at New York, and the news was transmitted thither by telegraph.

ENGLAND. An important item from China is the reported loss of seventeen American whalers, though no names are given, and the story is without doubt exaggerated.

Large amounts of species are flowing into England. The West India steamer brought \$800,000 from Vera Cruz. A Government steamer was daily expected from the Pacific with \$2,000,000.

The continued unsettled state of affairs, generally in the Continent, continues to exercise a very powerful influence to the prejudice of commerce.

The Cotton market has been rather more firm and steady, with a better demand.

The Corn Markets have not undergone tranquility are restored.

IRELAND. During the suspension of the sittings of the Irish Confederation, and the meetings at Conciliation Hall, the agitation in Ireland has for the moment appeared to languish. The adhesion of the Bishop of Meath, and several other prelates to the new Irish League, furnishes grounds for supposing that Mr. John O'Connell's cause is not yet doomed. The leaders, that is, in whatever combination of parties or associations the present organization may eventually resolve itself, will then play a conspicuous part, and exert, as heretofore, a secret influential power.

In the course of a week or two it will be seen whether the new Irish League can be set up on a footing that will enable the moral force party to combine and act, with a due regard to personal safety, with the more violent physical force leaders. Unless Mr. John O'Connell can bring into the scale the equipments of a force equal to 10,000 men, we fear that a harmonious action cannot long be maintained between the high contracting parties who are preparing the new scheme of agitation.

In the meantime, the organization of clubs is progressing to an alarming degree. In Dublin alone, it is said there are 40 clubs, each consisting of 300 members, making an aggregate of 1200 men, who are accustomed to assemble, at least once, for the avowed purpose of being trained and disciplined.

FRANCE.—The State of the Country. The French people continue still in a transition state. The same great difficulties still exist, and the future, although the threatening aspect of affairs which prevailed last week, has in some degree worn away, in consequence of the resignation tendered by Louis Bonaparte of his seat in the National Assembly. In the meantime the Executive Government loses authority and influence daily; the finances are in a state of great disorder; increased taxation and diminished resources both affecting the people and the Government, are fast bringing on some frightful catastrophe; and the eventual issue of the mighty revolution of February remains still one of the most uncertain of the future.

In the provinces the most frightful disorders are progressing to an alarming degree. In Dublin alone, it is said there are 40 clubs, each consisting of 300 members, making an aggregate of 1200 men, who are accustomed to assemble, at least once, for the avowed purpose of being trained and disciplined.

ITALY. Accounts from Vienna, dated the 15th instant, state that a courier had brought the report of General Weidlen, respecting the surrender of Vincenza. According to these reports, the Italian troops, in pursuance of the capitulation, were to withdraw on the 20th, but the loss of the Austrians in the attack on the city, amounted to about 1800 or 2000 killed, wounded, and prisoners; while the loss of the Austrians did not exceed 500 killed and wounded, including Major General of the Prince of Salerno, who was killed. General Weidlen, with his men, had advanced to Treviso on the 12th.

The King of Sardinia, signed, on the evening of the 10th instant, at Gards, the pact with M. Casati and two other members of the Provisional Government of Milan, for the annexation of Lombardy to the kingdom of Sardinia.

The Provisional Government is to be abolished, and a kind of regency composed of Piedmontese and Milanese, at the head of which is to be the president, will, for the present, be established at Milan.

NAPLES. Despatches have been received from Naples to the 11th ult., at which date tranquility prevailed in the capital.

Ross' Advance from Danube. Annoyed by that a Russian army of 20,000 men had entered Wallachia. It is asserted that the Emperor Nicholas contemplates enfranchising all the peasants in his dominions from personal servitude. Poland, although invested with two hundred thousand troops, is a cause of much uneasiness to the Emperor, who is said to spend whole days and nights watching the telegraphs, now established as far as Warsaw and the frontiers of Prussia.

There can be no doubt that large Russian armies are assembling at different points between Tilsit and Cracow; and that in consequence of the proximity of a Russian fleet in the Baltic, show that the Czar is inclined, in certain cases, to act with decided hostility against Germany.

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FRANCE. At Berlin the most frightful scene has again occurred. The people, not satisfied with the votes of their own universal suffrage Parliament, have, under the most forcible instances, seized every opportunity to make a tumult.

Spain. Advice has been received from Madrid to the 16th, when perfect tranquility prevailed.

AUSTRIA. But if matters are bad at Berlin, events of even a still more atrocious character have occurred at Prague. The King, having refused to call a constituent Provincial Government, Prince Windischgratz having, in secret, gathered around the town, the mob and the students rose *en masse* and demanded arms. A collision having ensued between the Burger Guard and the populace, some assassin seized the opportunity to indulge his private malice by firing a rifle at the Prince Windischgratz, who was shot in the head. The victim was the daughter of the celebrated Prince Schwarzenberg. One of the Prince's sons was also mortally wounded. In these exciting circumstances Prince Windischgratz, with great calmness and dignity, interested the mob to disperse, but to no effect; and he endeavored to hang himself up to the roof of the bridge across the Little Androscoffin, which is completed, and the work on the one across the Great Androscoffin has so far progressed as to insure its completion in the early part of October next. Up to the present, the report showed that the work had been carried on thus far with great economy and success. From the report of the Treasurer it appears that, to this time, every contractor upon the road, or other person having claims upon the Company, had been paid promptly, when his estimate or claim became due—without resorting to any bank for loans, and with still a surplus in the treasury. Something over two hundred thousand dollars had been collected up the stock of the Company.

The working men were unanimously chosen Directors for the year ensuing. Timotheus Bouteille, (whom President of the Board,) Josiah Mornell, William Samuel, W. H. Moulton, Samuel Taylor, Jr., Hobart Clark, Josiah Little, John Ward, Samuel P. Benson, Reuben B. Dunn, W. B. S. Moor, Lot M. Mornell, and Ira Crocker. Samuel P. Benson was chosen Clerk.

An effort is to be made to increase the stock of the Company, to complete the grading and bridging, which we trust will be successful. It is hoped that no man having the means will at this time refrain from doing his full share, the complete, at least, of which is important to the whole country, through which the rail road runs.

A second telegraphic despatch was received at 9 o'clock, at night, from the burgomaster at Prague; it is as follows:—"As the burghers and students are ready to re-establish order, the burgomaster requests that the minister may confirm the following by telegraph:—"The military, with the exception of the grenadiers, are to enter the city, and until the delivery of the petition by our deputies to the Emperor and to our ministers, no arrests or trials of any kind shall take place in the presence of the military."

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The Maine Farmer; A Family Newspaper, Devoted to Agriculture, Mechanic Arts, Literature, General Intelligence, &c. &c.

The Muse.

[From the N. Y. Journal of Commerce.]

ODE TO THE SUN.

Light of the Universe! Impair
Of genial warmth, the rolling world upon,
Whose orient beams bid nature to beatir,
Fields to bloom forth, and darkness to begone;
Scattering mists, and quelling the light dews,
That sparks fly in the wasting rays;
Gilding the mountain, while thin essence strays,
Adown the steep, and fleeing night pursues;
To sing of these, I tune anew my muse.

For those are powerful, more than all
That grace the studded sky, in mortal scope;

King of the day! at first morning call,
Earth, air and sea, to freshen'd glory open;

And planets fade, and vanish with their train;

The starry host to dimmer vagueness sinks;

At thy approach, the fiery comet shrinks,

Unseen, forgot, or wandering waste within;

Till night shall'ver the sleeping world again.

And from the fertile earth thy beauteous beams,

Draw for the bud, and waving fields mature;

The flower-buds, along the flowing streams;

Are but thy lesser beauties, chaste pure.

The grassy leas reflect thy verdant hue,

Pine of the forest, ash that towers high;

Oak too, and sycamore, that time delay;

By thee were nourished, and thy smilest endue

Thee shaggy limbs with summer foliage new.

Thee lab'r lies him to the wond'ring fields,

In early Spring to scatter 'er the seed;

His store committed to the earth he yields,

Seeking a harvest for the wintry need.

And plucks thy' ancyng weed with patient care.

Thee theneforth marks, confuseth winter showers,

And counts the harvest from the rolling powers.

The evening rain and morning's clearer air

Give hope to rend the annual harvest fair.

"Tis beauty's hour when summer's day is closing;

The setting sun gives place to growing night;

The fertile fields a soñen diecning.

When thy last beams are playing on the sight,

Enchanting hour, bring on thy strain,

To breathe soft whis'ring in the mulier's ear;

Cupid is drawn from the thin shades near,

Chaining the thoughts beneath his mid control,

And leads a grandie to the loving soul.

Anon, when riding near her highest noon,

Replete with beauty and the yellow glow;

We upward gaze over the rolling meadow;

Queen of the night, whence every light doth flow;

And mark that beauty, when radiance springs

From thee, her life, that ever shall lack

A name, a being, of mightly black;

No more would then the lovee tune his strings,

To wake night echoes, where the ivy clings.

Upon the Persian hills, away in Eastern clime,

Where bards the olive' neath thy mid light;

They watch thy coming from the morning's prime;

And worship thy pay, rolling on their sight;

The air resounds with timbrel and the song;

Gay plumed birds in chattering chorus sing;

And shrieks the vulture on the soaring wing.

Caverns and cliffs the pealing notes prolong,

And nature hums with her smiling throng.

And thou art such as when created new,

Adam awak'ning sun, and wondering gazed.

Thou hast seen mighty nations spring to view,

Whose batt'd walls forgotten ages razed.

For ye the same! unshamed by tempest dire;

Though earthquake rends the quivering earth in twain,

Though floods engulf, thrice deeper than the main,

And mountains beth' consum'ing streams of fire,

Thou roll'st on, uncheck'd by Terra's ire.

Forever out with radiance all undim'd.

Thou rolest time, and from thy regal throne

Doth govern earth, and fill the circling year.

With wond'rous seasons, circles, and the zone.

Mighty in power! Yet wert thou from chaos made

By Him, Creator, whose all glorious eye

Could limit the lustre of the studied sky;

Whose word could bid thy rising beams to fade,

And hurl thy glory to chaotic shade.

Madison, Ct., 1848

W.***

The Story-Teller.

[From Neal's Saturday Gazette.]

MORNING CALLS;

Or, Everybody's Particular Friend.

By FRANC.

"Good morning, Miss Mary!"

"Good morning, Mrs. Shaw!"

"I'm well aware that I don't owe any call here, but I told Mr. Shaw that the morning was so fine, I'd just step in and see whether you were all alive, for really it seems an age since I saw any of you—you're not been at all neighborly of late."

"I know it, Mrs. Shaw, but you must excuse me, for grandmother has been so feeble for some weeks past that we have not been able to leave—mother is with her now and desires to be excused."

"Certainly; she is very excusable. I was not aware that your grandmother was sick—I'm excessively sorry to hear it—should assuredly have been round to see her before had I been aware of her illness. I do think so much of your grandmother—she is certainly the sweetest old lady that I ever knew. I tell Mr. Shaw she reminds me so much of my own dear mother—has the same dignified manner and benevolent countenance that she had. And her character is very much like my mother's, too, always doing good among the poor and sick. I regret excessively that I was not aware of her illness—should certainly have been round, though my own health has been very precarious—in fact, it always is—go out very little—none at all excepting among my particular friends. I do hope your grandmother will be spared—we couldn't part with her in any way—there are so few like her on earth—and the poet says 'Heaven is overhead.' Ah! I see you have Dickens' last, here—I suppose it's excessively interesting."

"No—I think it's hardly worth reading."

"Indeed! well, of course I shall read it if you condemn it—you are such an excellent judge of literature, and such a reader—your own productions, too, are exquisite—Mr. Shaw is perfectly charmed with them. What a beauty your japonica is, I noticed it last evening in passing. Ah! that reminds me they tell stories about you, Mary."

"Indeed! what do they say about me, pray?"

"Oh, they say you're going to be married."

"The deuce I am! To whom are they going to marry me?"

"My stars! I protest you counterfeit astonishment to perfection. Of course the favored one is George Carter—and I assure you, Mary, you're quite the envy of all the girls for snapping him up so soon after his return from Europe."

"You surprise me, Mrs. Shaw. I've seen very little of George Carter since he came home."

"Ah, do you think I shall believe you when appearances are so very strong against you? Didn't I see somebody's curly dog lying on somebody's pizza last evening?"

"And seeing a puppy outside of the door, it was very natural for you to infer that there was another one inside."

"My stars! if that isn't a grand idea. You are such a capital manager, Mrs. More. Mr. Shaw often remarks that Dr. More's family is a model, for its admirable management—and it is so. It seems to me I should be the happiest woman in the world if I could be independent of hired girls and maids—make a fortune for her—I do hope she'll recover. And do you and your ma come round and see us as soon as you can. Seraphine and I think so much of seeing our friends—your ma and you particularly—and we're so lonely since Angelene went to New York."

"Have you heard from Angelene lately?"

"Yes, we received a letter yesterday. She says give my love to all the girls, but particularly to Mary Barber. Angel does think so much of you. (Miss Barber bows.) She's enjoying herself excessively—sees a great deal of company. You know how it is in the city, Mary—you've spent so much time there. She says she dreams coming back to this dull place excessively."

"Well, then, I hope she'll snap up somebody in the city, and not be compelled to come back here."

"What a quiz you are, Mary! but I must go—give my love to your ma, and do come round when you can. Good morning."

"Good morning, Mrs. Shaw."

Her next call is at Dr. More's.

"Good morning, Caroline. Is your ma at home?"

"She is. She's engaged just now in the kitchen, but she'll be shortly."

"Now don't let me hinder you if you are engaged about anything—just take me right in where you're at work."

"Well then walk into the sitting-room, if you please—Charlotte and I are sewing there."

"Good morning, Charlotte! Dress-making, eh? Is that for you or Caroline?"

"For me—but Caroline has one like it. Do you think it pretty?"

"I do so. Those large plaids are excessively becoming to a tall, slender person like you and Caroline—but Mary Barber looks wretchedly in them—she's so short and so thick. I was just in there—she had on a plaid, the squares, without exaggeration, as large as my two hands—it was blue, too, and you know she is so dark."

"I did feel rather hurt that they discharged Dr. More; but they were urged by some of their friends to try the homoeopathic system. It's not from any want of confidence in Dr. More—they are very friendly to him—and I dare say they'll employ him again, at some future time, if they're not satisfied with Dr. Smith's practice."

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